



2026 ELDER CANDIDATE BIOS
October 24 - November 9

MARK NOLAN



Faith & Family

Mark Nolan's life is a story of God's grace and redemption. Raised in Texas, he grew up surrounded by faith and family entrepreneurship. His grandfather founded Emblems, a Christian business that partnered with Billy Graham's ministry in Dallas, planting early seeds of faith in Mark's

heart. At eleven years old, while attending Sky Ranch summer camp, Romans 10:9 became real as he accepted Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior. That moment began a lifelong journey of faith, growth, and renewal. Mark and his wife, Audra, have been together for more than a decade and share a deep love for their daughters — Trinity, and Miranda (26, expecting her first child) — blessings who continually remind them of God's goodness.

Journey of Grace

Through life's challenges and seasons of learning, Mark has seen firsthand that God's plan is always greater than our own. He often says, "My story isn't about perfection — it's about, BUT GOD HAD A PLAN." From early career setbacks to moments of restoration, each chapter of Mark's life has strengthened his faith, deepened his humility, and refined his heart for service.

Scriptures such as Ephesians 6:11, Galatians 5:22, Psalm 23, and his three guiding verses —

- Mark 12:28-30 (Love the Lord your God with all your heart, soul, mind, and strength)
- Matthew 28:19 (Go and make disciples of all nations)
- John 14:6 (I am the way, the truth, and the life) anchor his daily walk and calling.

Calling & Service at Lakeway Church

Mark and his family have found their spiritual home at the Lakeway Church; where serving, community, and sharing life with many of his brothers in faith — has become central to his walk with Christ!

His fruit of service at our church includes:

- Men's Ministry 720 Leadership Team-Treasurer
- Usher & Greeter-Team Leader
- Friday Men's 6:30 am-Table Leader/Ambassador
- Wed Night Rally-7th & 8th Grade Boys Mentor
- South Texas Short-Term Mission Trip-Co-Leader

These opportunities have shaped Mark's heart for servant leadership and confirmed his calling to help others grow in their relationship with Jesus.

Faith in Action

Professionally, Mark has owned and led several businesses in construction, finance, and real estate, but his greatest fulfillment comes from the gift of living out his faith daily. Known for wisdom, encouragement, love, and generosity, he seeks to model the fruit of the Spirit in every relationship.

"God has used every season — success and setback alike — to prepare me to serve with compassion, humility, stewardship, and joy. All by His grace — Praise Jesus."

RICK RHODES



I surrendered my heart to the saving grace of Jesus Christ at the age of 10. I was baptized at Handley Baptist Church in Fort Worth. This launched a personal journey of spiritual growth that continues today.

After graduating from high school in Sweetwater, TX, I attended the University of Texas and earned a Bachelor of Business Administration degree. My professional career included small business ownership, banking, and service to the State of Texas at two state agencies.

I married my high school sweetheart, Pam, and we have 2 married sons and 7 grandchildren. We joined Lakeway Church in 2007.

At previous churches, I had opportunities to serve as a Sunday School teacher, Deacon, Elder, and Executive Pastor. Lakeway Church has provided opportunities for me to serve as a Life Group Leader, Missions Team member, Deeper Wider Capital Campaign Committee member, lay leader for Discipleship Journey, and Elder.

I am thankful for God's blessings, and I look forward to utilizing my gifting to serve Him in the days ahead. I'm excited for Lakeway Church to continue being a spiritual beacon and lighthouse for the community of Lakeway, the Lake Travis region, and beyond.

MARTHA RICHARDSON



Lakeway Church has been my church home since 2018. Since joining Lakeway Church, I have served on the Women's Ministry Team in various capacities and as the Women's Ministry Leader, as well as, a Bible study facilitator.

One of my favorite opportunities in which I have participated through the Lakeway Church is our annual mission trip to the Acuna, Mexico. Largely, because that was a service opportunity I got to experience with my family. I believe that Lakeway Church is uniquely positioned to serve our community while glorifying God because of the good work and vision of our predecessors. If chosen to serve as one of your elders, I would be honored and humbled to serve our Church as it meets the challenges of our growing and changing community. I want everyone who comes to our church to be cared for and feel like they get a small church experience.

I grew up on horse farm in Southwestern Ohio. I was reared in a Christian family and decided to accept Jesus Christ as my Lord and Savior when I was eight years old. I have volunteered in churches my entire life: Vacation Bible Schools, mission trips, college programming, children's programming, and adult programming, as both a participant and an organizer.

I graduated with my bachelor of arts from Smith College in 1997. Since then, I have been blessed with an amazing husband (Sam Mende) and two children. My daughter, Sarah (22) is currently in graduate school in Uppsala, Sweden and my son, Cyrus (20) is the loudest and proudest member of the fighting Texas Aggie class of 2028. We lived all over United States and Australia before calling Texas our home.

RICHARD VERSTEEG



My wife Robin and I have known each other for 45 years - 10 years as friends at first and now 35 years married. We have two grown children - our oldest lives in Austin, our youngest is disabled and continues to live with us.

I grew up in a family that believed in God but not in Church. As a teenager, I grew to believe that God was irrelevant; I had a negative view of Christians. But God began to show me that my ideas about Him weren't really my ideas; they were ideas I had unthinkingly absorbed from the world around me. He helped me identify the fear I had of believing in Him and how that might change me. Finally, when I was 26, I let go of that fear, accepted Jesus as my savior, and was baptized.

I had never seriously considered serving as an elder until I felt God calling me to that role. After much prayer, I accepted His call, was selected, and began my 3 year term on the Elder Council in 2017. God was abundantly faithful in providing what I lacked to carry out His calling. The experience transformed me and my family. Since completing my term on the elder council, I have continued in my role as elder through a variety of activities including listening to what's on our members' and visitors' hearts and praying with them.

God has placed a call on my heart again. I look forward to discovering His plans for me and our church.